BRAIN-STIMULATING PRODUCTIONS PRESENTS...

POLEMIC

ISSUE ONE

30p

ALL PROCEEDS GO TO THE A.L.F. SUPPORTERS GROUP.

B A N D S :
A N O R E X I A
N O X M O R T I S
CONDEMNED MINORITY

A R T I C L E S :
DOES DIRECT ACTION = FASCISM???
P O R N O G R A P H Y

PLUS: POEMS, ARTWORK/GRAPHICS, etc...

- AN INEVITABLE BY-PRODUCT OF THE NUCLEAR AGE!

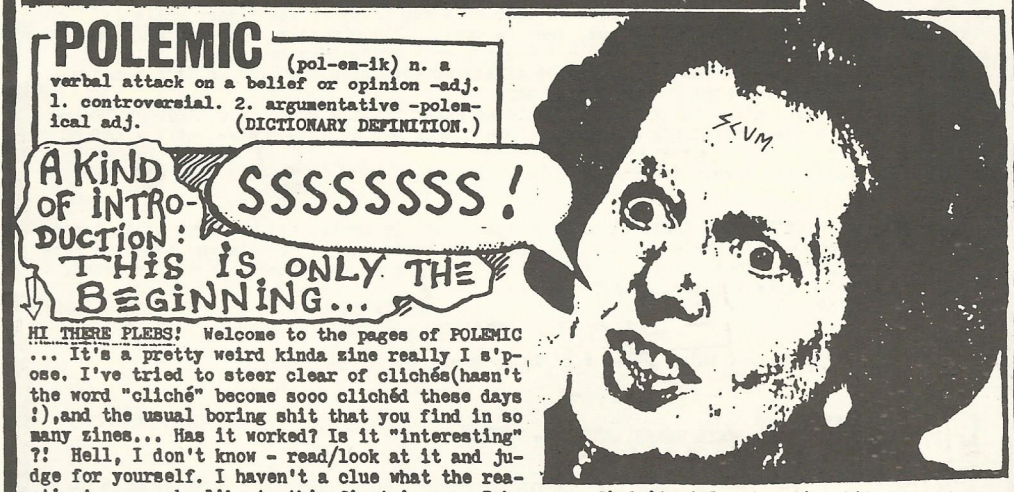
20 PAGE A5 BOOKLET, PLUS SINGLE-SIDED A3 POSTER.

'PØLEMIC',
28 BELLEVILLE DRIVE,
OADBY,
LEICESTER,
LE2 4HA.

He saved us from lesbian invasion, says newsreader

POLEMIC

(pol-em-ik) n. a verbal attack on a belief or opinion -adj. 1. controversial. 2. argumentative -polemical adj. (DICTIONARY DEFINITION.)



HI THERE PLEBS! Welcome to the pages of POLEMIC ... It's a pretty weird kinda zine really I s'pose. I've tried to steer clear of clichés(hasn't the word "cliché" become sooo clichéd these days !),and the usual boring shit that you find in so many zines... Has it worked? Is it "interesting" ?! Hell, I don't know - read/look at it and judge for yourself. I haven't a clue what the reaction's gonna be like to this first issue - I hope you find it at least a tiny bit thought-provoking.I haven't really considered what I think of it myself... I s'pose it's o.k., but it will improve! As it sez above: This is only the beginning...

It's taken me quite a while to put this zine together cos I've got loadsa other stuff on my plate at the moment. At the time of writing this, my exams (G.C.S.E. - equivalent to "O"-level) are due to start next week, and all this revision is a right pain in the arse (but more so in the brain) I can tell ya! Not that I put much importance on "qualifications" - they don't prove or disprove anything. The authoritative powers over me - government,teachers,parents,etc. - would have me believe that qualifications are the be-all and end-all of my life - they "justify my existance", so to speak - BULLSHIT! Exams and qualifications mean fuck-all - it's people that count. But now that I've come this far through the State education system, I might as well see it through to the bitter end. And, as if to contradict what I've just said, I'm gonna go on to do "A"-levels next year (English,Art,and History). Not to get the qualifications, but because I wanna learn more stuff! It's not costing me anything to go to school (not in financial terms anyway), so why should I turn my back on the chance to aquire more knowledge? Seems o.k. to me.

Anyway, I seem to have drifted away from what I was saying... Erm...

Ah,yes. I also co-edit a zine called CHEMICAL WARFARE which is devoted mainly to band interviews, reviews,news,etc., plus the odd bit of artwork, poetry,column or article thrown in for good measure - you know the kinda thing. In fact, you've probably already seen a copy of Chem.Warfare cos it has a much wider circulation than this. Needless to say, if you haven't got a copy of Chem.Warfare (issue 3 should be out by the time you read this) - BUY ONE NOW!! Another one of my pastimes is running POLEMIC DISTRIBUTION, which doesn't really need anything said about it - there should be a copy of my latest mail-order list enclosed with this zine.

So then, what's the point of this zine? Well, basically, it's just a vehicle for self-expression - mostly by me, but also by the other contributors. It's sorta like an easy way for me to put some ideas across, and hopefully stimulate some response from YOU! There isn't really any specific point to the existance of this zine - I'll just see how it goes... However, "POLEMIC" is a project which I intend to continue well into the next decade, and hopefully produce fairly regularly. I particularly want to get a good letterssection started, so if

(MORE OVERLEAF...)

anything in this issue has offended you, or just made you think a bit, please write in!

My own views aren't fixed or stagnant, they're continually changing. Some of the things I say may seem to contradict each other - I don't know - maybe they do. But one thing that I've got on my side is the fact that I'm not afraid of criticism. As long as it's constructive, I'll listen to anything you've got to say.

Lastly, some of you might think that you hate me after reading my short article on "Pornography", but I'm not a bad kinda guy really. Don't slag me, or anyone else, off - LET ME KNOW YOUR VIEWS!

Well, I'll leave it at that for now... I love ya all! - MICK (17/4/88)

Update: FUCK! I wrote that editorial bit way back in April, and the zine still isn't out - it's now early JULY!!! Erm... Sorry to all the people who expected this to be out sooner, but y'know how it is. CHEM.WARFARE 3 took up more time than I'd expected, etc.,etc.,blah,blah,more excuses...waffle,waffle...

I've already got loads of ideas for POLEMIC 2, so hopefully that'll be out fairly soon(ish!)

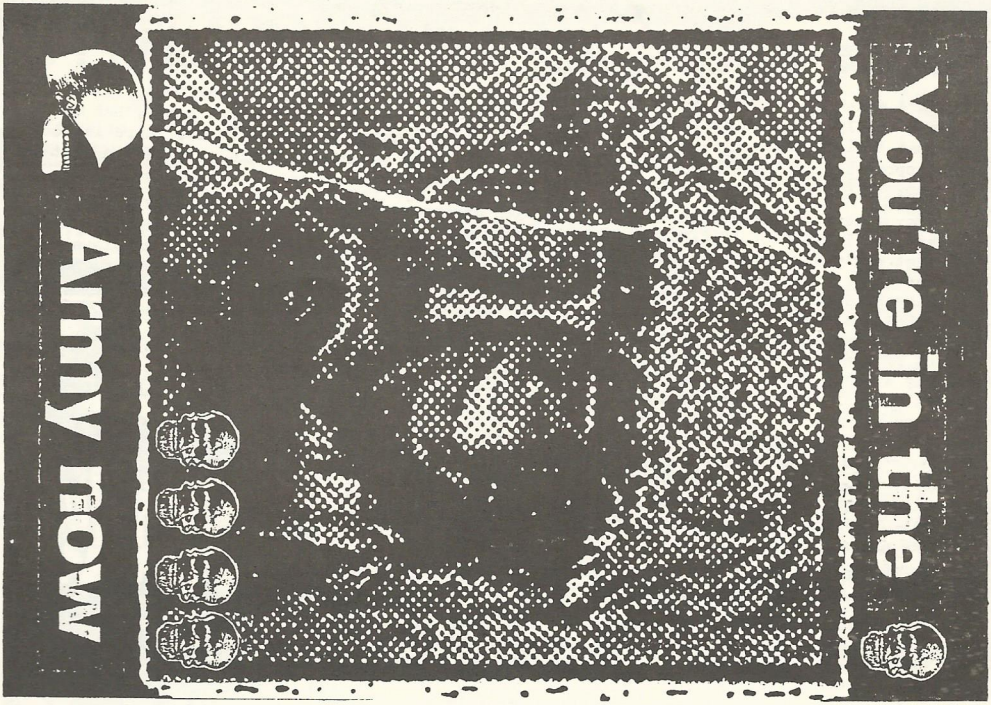
'Bye for now, LOVE... MICK (who else?!)

P.S. By the way, I think I did o.k. in my exams (As if you cared!!)

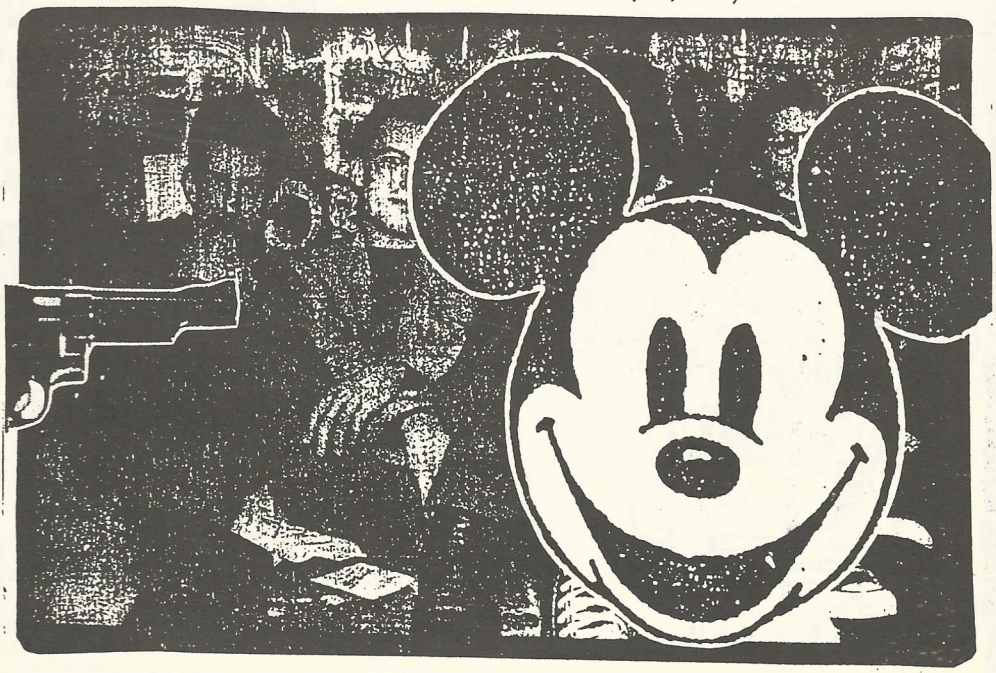
"THANKS" TO → NEIL SMITH, ANDY C., ANOREXIA, NOX MORTIS, & CONDEMNED MINORITY.

PRINTED BY → JUMA, 27b SUMNER WORKSHOPS, 80 SUMNER ROAD, LONDON, SE15 6LA.

(PRINT RUN: 500)



- POLEMIC GRAPHICS (1988) -



DOES DIRECT ACTION = FASCISM???

"I don't smash up butchers shops or anything like that, although I'm tempted from time to time, I can't really see that that achieves anything. It may lose the shopkeepers money, but to force non-meat beliefs on people is fascism, and that is an equally important issue. There is too much oppression in the world already. My supposedly good intentions would only add to that and gain me, or the worthy veggie campaign, no supporters."

The above quote is taken from an interview with Jeremy, a member of the band ATAVISTIC, which appeared in issue 4 of AD-REM zine. I can understand the point that Jeremy was trying to make, but I strongly disagree with him. He uses the word "fascism" to mean imposing your views on someone else. Well, if that's the case, then the butchers are the biggest fascists of all - they impose their so-called "right" to eat meat on the animals which they buy and sell. Anyone who has anything to do with the buying, selling, or eating of meat is, by Jeremy's definition, a "fascist", because they are all accomplices to murder - putting their "right to eat meat" before an animal's right to live a life free from pain and misery.

The production of meat, and the process by which it gets to the butcher's shop, is an horrific business - the animals are treated with no more respect than the Jews in the Nazis extermination camps during the 2nd World War. And, if we choose to just sit back and ignore their suffering, and remain apathetic, then we are all "fascists".

SHE/HE WHO DOES NOTHING TO STOP THE SLAUGHTER IS JUST AS GUILTY AS THE SLAUGHTERER HIMSELF.

Is putting a butcher out of business really imposing your views on someone else? I doubt if the condemned animals would see it that way. Saying that direct action against animal abusers is fascism is like saying that the person who stands up and defends him/herself against an armed soldier is the oppressor - it's a farce. Direct action is a form of self defence - the defence of life.

I agree with Jeremy that there is too much oppression in the world, but it's the non-human animals which are oppressed to the greatest extent. Direct action is a form of protest against oppression, not oppression itself.

I, myself, don't have any sympathy for those who oppress, abuse, and exploit animals - they deserve all that we can throw at them!

DESTROY FASCISM (IN ALL IT'S FORMS) - PUT THE MURDEROUS SCUM OUT OF BUSINESS!

DEATH.

The cows line up in confused rows -
Their fear and anguish grows and grows

You can see the terror in their eyes
As they see their fellow animals die

Can you imagine being strung up by one leg -
Half paralyzed as blood pours from your neck?

Can you imagine a more horrible death?
Can you imagine a more horrible death?

THROW A BRICK FOR FREEDOM.

We can help by making just a small contribution,
Through our unselfish actions will come liberation,

Sabotage, graffiti, or hoax-contamination,
We must keep up the fight to end exploitation.

Illustrations by DAVID HINE, taken from "ANIMAL LIBERATION: A GRAPHIC GUIDE" (fuck copyright!)

THE ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT

THIS BOOKLET/ZINE IS A BENEFIT FOR THE ANIMAL LIBERATION FRONT. THAT MEANS ALL PROCEEDS (EVERY PENNY OF THE 30p COVER PRICE) WILL GO TO THE A.L.F. SUPPORTERS GROUP. I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANY NEED TO EXPLAIN WHY - THE ENCLOSED POSTER DOES THAT MORE THAN ADEQUATELY.

ALF SG, BCM Box 1160, London WC1N 3XX

THE VEGAN ACTION GROUP ARE ALSO WELL WORTH YOUR SUPPORT...

DON'T BE A PART OF THE FUR TRAP

TELL PEOPLE WHAT YOU THINK ABOUT WEARING FUR

HELP THEM TO SAVE THE ANIMALS NOW!

TRASH: It is estimated that for every wild animal killed for fur, two more are trapped, killed and discarded as 'trash' - their coats being of no value to the trade. Many of these luckless creatures are domestic pets and endangered species.

CONDEMNED MINORITY

HERE'S A SHORT INTERVIEW WITH CAMBRIDGE THRASH BAND, CONDEMNED MINORITY. THEY FORMED FAIRLY RECENTLY &, AS YET, HAVEN'T RELEASED ANYTHING, BUT THAT SHOULD SOON CHANGE. QUESTIONS ANSWERED BY PAT...

WHAT'S THE CURRENT LINE-UP, & HOW DID YOU ALL GET TOGETHER?
The present line up is Pat - guitar,vocals; Tom - bass,vocals; Toby - guitar; and Ian - drums. We all got together as friends with nothing to do but to form a band. We all knew each other previously.

WHAT SUBJECTS DO YOU COVER IN YOUR LYRICS? ARE THERE ANY PARTICULAR MESSAGES THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO GET ACROSS?
The lyrics cover war, depression, friends, animal rights, religion, Lebanon, also personal feelings to a situation. There are (I think!) messages in our songs but I think when you listen to the lyrics the way you act upon them depends on what person you really are.

WHAT ARE YOUR HOPES & PLANS FOR THE FUTURE? ARE WE LIKELY TO BE SEEING/HEARING A C.M. DEMO SOON?
Our hopes are to find a permanent rehearsal place (we've been kicked out of 4 already - too loud). We're doing a 7" soon and we will record a good quality demo when we get our money together.

ANYTHING ELSE TO ADD?
Yeah, write to us at: PAT, 55 GUNTONS CLOSE, SOHAM, CAMBS. CB7 5DJ. Ta to Mick and all I write to. Send for tape trading list. Bye!

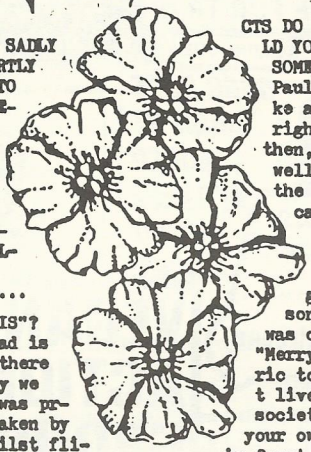
NOX MORTIS

NOX MORTIS INTERVIEW - APRIL 1988...

THE FOLLOWING INTERVIEW HAS BEEN PRINTED HERE AS A TRIBUTE TO SIMON, NOX MORTIS' SINGER/BASSIST, WHO SADLY DIED, AFTER A LONG ILLNESS, SHORTLY AFTER I'D SENT THESE QUESTIONS TO PAUL (GUITAR). SIMON WILL BE GREATLY MISSED.

AT THE TIME OF WRITING THIS, PAUL & ANDY (DRUMS) ARE STILL DECIDING WHETHER OR NOT TO CONTINUE AS A BAND. I, FOR ONE, HOPE THEY DO BECAUSE THEIR ORIGINAL, TUNEFUL STYLE OF PUNK REALLY STANDS OUT FROM THE REST.

ANYWAY, ON WITH THE INTERVIEW...



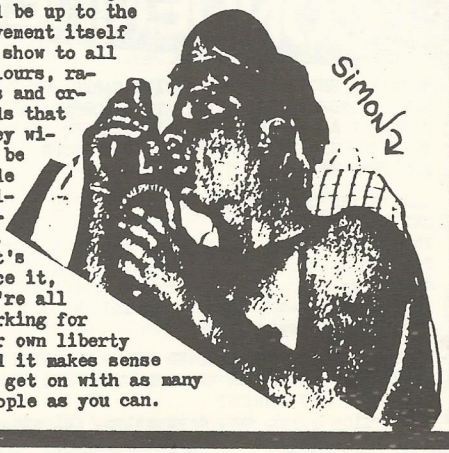
POLEMIC: WHY THE NAME "NOX MORTIS"?
Paul: Why not!! It's not that bad is it (he he). No, being serious, there wasn't any particular reason why we eventually chose that name. It was probably because of an interest taken by the band towards war poetry. Whilst flicking through a poetry book, we came across the poem "Nox Mortis" which, if any of you are interested, is written by Paul Bewsher. It looked a good poem so we decided to use the name.

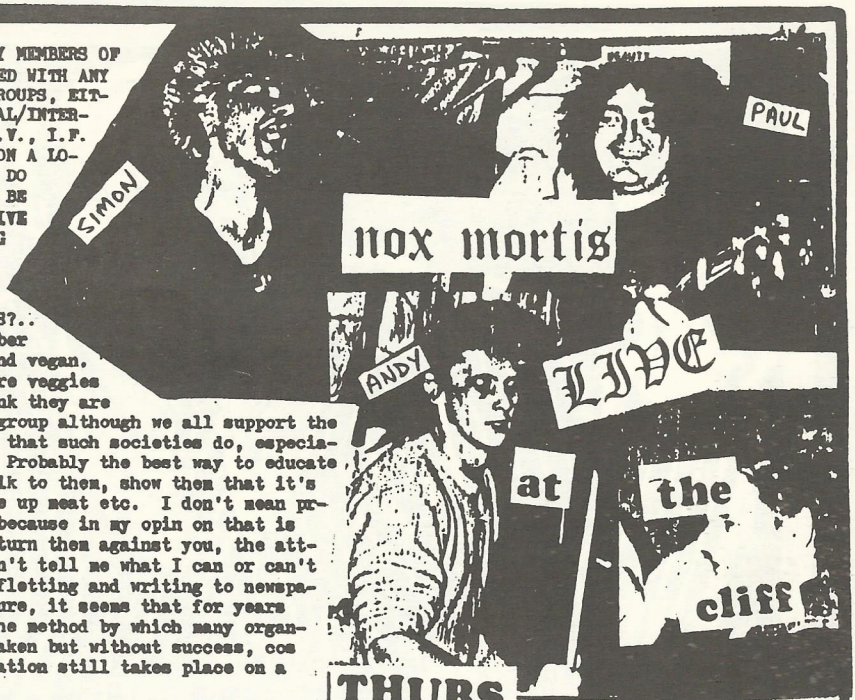
POLEMIC: WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO PUT SOME OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR POETS' POEMS TO MUSIC? IS THIS SOMETHING THAT YOU'LL CONTINUE TO DO, i.e. USE POEMS AS SONG LYRICS?
Paul: We thought it would be a different approach to the war topic, one which hasn't been used too often. Also the fact that those people who wrote the poems had first-hand experience of how disgusting war really is! Many of them perished in the trenches, so we thought it would be fitting to use their poems to remind people of what went on, the suffering, pain etc. during W.W.I. I don't know if we'll use poems again, perhaps if we find a good one that we like or if we write a classic ourselves then we'd probably use it, but I can't really say.

POLEMIC: DO YOU BUY A POPPY ON COMMEMORANCE SUNDAY? DON'T YOU THINK THAT THIS IS JUST BLATANT GLORIFICATION OF WAR?
Paul: No, I definitely don't, I agree with yer good self when you say it's just a glorification of war. I hate commemoration day, the whole idea of it sickens me, especially when all the politicians and statesmen remember the dead. Those people died because of an idea thought up by statesmen, they aren't the ones who have to go and die for Queen and Country etc. It shows just what a farce it is when the State allows Nazis to march past in the afternoon, protected by the cops, mind you, they're both on the same side anyway.

POLEMIC: WHAT OT ER SUBJECTS DO YOU COVER IN YOUR LYRICS - COULD YOU EXPLAIN THE MEANINGS BEHIND SOME OF YOUR SONGS?
Paul: We've covered mainly topics like as you've already said war, animal rights, starvation, cider, etc. Now then, the meanings behind the songs, well let us start with "Mary Downe", the reason we wrote it was simply because of our love for Merrydown cider at the time, but instead of just writing about it normally we thought it would be a challenge for people to work out what the song was really about, that's why it was called "Mary-Downe" instead of "Merrydown". The meaning behind the lyric to "Your Life" is that you shouldn't live your life page by page the way society dictates, but to try and do your own thing. It's like having a book in front of you which tells you how to live, you turn to the next page in order to wait for the instructions, then you abide by them. Break away from the pages and dictate your own future!!

POLEMIC: THE VAST MAJORITY OF PUNKS ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO RACISM & SEXISM, BUT, DESPITE THIS, THERE ARE COMPARITIVELY FEW FEMALE OR NON-WHITE PUNKS IN THE MOVEMENT. WHAT ARE YOUR VIEWS ON THIS?
Paul: I don't know the reason why there are so few female and non-white punks in the movement, maybe it's because these people still don't realise or feel that those prejudices have vanished all-together from the movement. It should be up to the movement itself to show to all colours, races and creeds that they will be made welcome. Let's face it, we're all working for our own liberty and it makes sense to get on with as many people as you can.





THURS 28th MAY

POLEMIC: ARE ANY MEMBERS OF THE BAND INVOLVED WITH ANY ANIMAL RIGHTS GROUPS, EITHER ON A NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL (B.U.A.V., I.F.A.W., etc.) OR ON A LOCAL CALE? WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY OF EDUCATING THE "GENERAL PUBLIC" - LEAFLETTING? WRITING TO NEWSPAPERS?..
Paul: I'm a member of the H.S.A. and vegan. The other two are veggies and I don't think they are members of any group although we all support the tremendous work that such societies do, especially Greenpeace. Probably the best way to educate people is to talk to them, show them that it's not hard to give up meat etc. I don't mean preach to people because in my opin on that is more likely to turn them against you, the attitude being "Don't tell me what I can or can't do". As for leafletting and writing to newspapers, I'm not sure, it seems that for years this has been the method by which many organisations have taken but without success, cos all the exploitation still takes place on a massive scale.

POLEMIC: DO YOU THINK THAT, BECAUSE IT LOSES PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE CAUSE OF ANIMAL RIGHTS, DIRECT ACTION AGAINST ANIMAL ABUSERS IS WRONG?
Paul: No way, direct action is an important part of the A.R. movement, without it many animals would have suffered or perished. Also valuable information obtained during raids would never have been discovered, remember the info used against the Royal College of Surgeons in a court case was obtained during a raid. It may be a shame that it has to come to D.A. before people actually open their eyes to what is really going on, also it's the only way those sick bastards who deal in animal death can be made aware that people won't tolerate what they do.

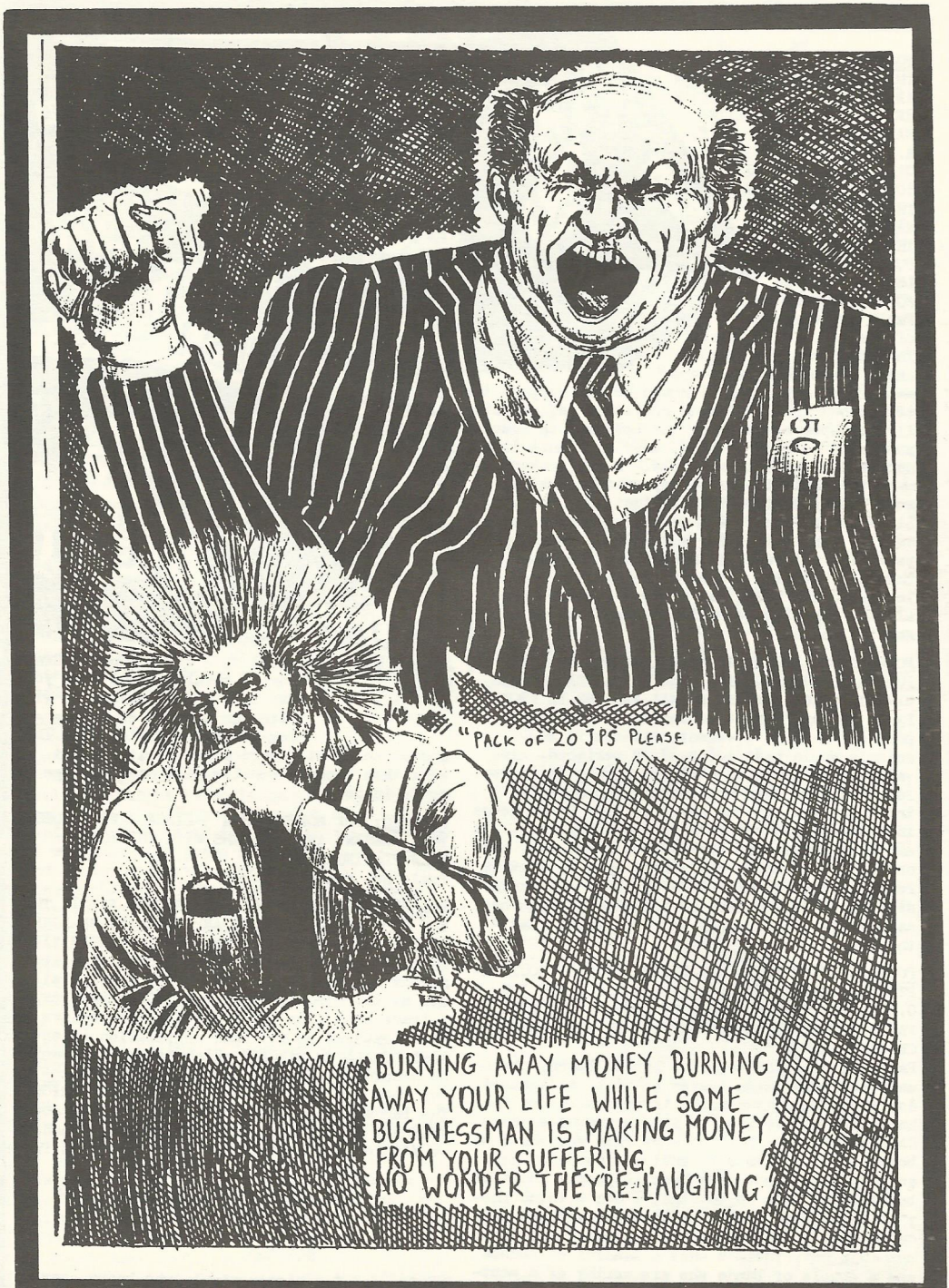
POLEMIC: WHAT'S IT LIKE LIVING DOWN IN SOUTHAMPTON? I IMAGINE IT TO BE A KIND OF HAVEN FOR O.A.P.'s & PRETTY DEVOID OF GIGS - IS THIS A FAIRLY ACCURATE PRECONCEPTION, OR JUST IGNORANCE ON MY PART?
Paul: Oh boy, you've got a lot to learn, obviously your education leaves a lot to be desired, don't you know know Soton is the centre of the universe? No, seriously, it's not a haven for OAP's, it's just full of arseholes who can't be bothered to motivate themselves. We could have quite a good scene down here if people could be bothered to turn up to gigs, I don't think they're interested in what happens at all. It used to be really good a few years back but now it's non-existant. There's only a handful of venues and a couple of bands who are worthy of a mention - The Mad Thatchers - who have now sadly split up - and Corporate Grave. You're totally right when you say it's pretty devoid of gigs, although a group of us are going to give the place one last chance to react toward gigs, if it doesn't work then those arseholes will have no gigs to go to in Soton.

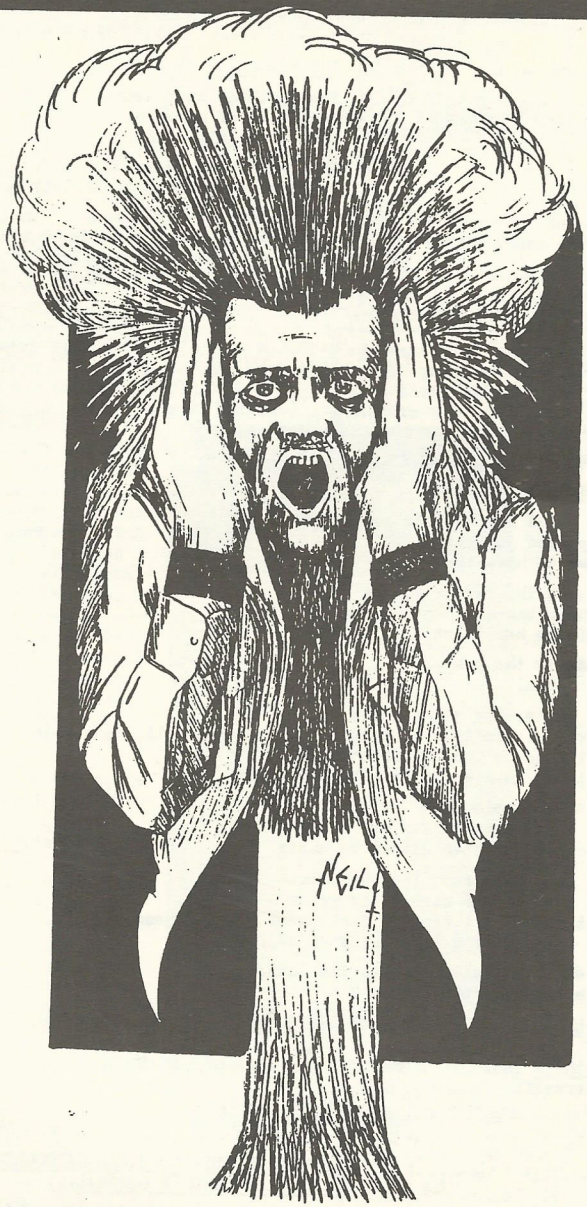
POLEMIC: NOX MORTIS IS A 3-PIECE BAND - DOES THIS PRESENT ANY PROBLEMS WITH THE VOCALS WHEN PLAYING LIVE?
Paul: No, not at all.

POLEMIC: WHAT HAVE YOU RELEASED SO FAR IN THE WAY OF TAPES & RECORDS? AND WHEN ARE WE LIKELY TO BE SEEING/HEARING SOME NEW NOX MORTIS VINYL?
Paul: First off, we released a demo tape about a year and a half ago and that's still available at the moment, still only 60p + SAE for a 5-track demo from the address below. We are also featured on a 4 band compilation LP entitled "SHALL WE DANCE?" which is out on Meantime Records (I did the front cover artwork - do you need any other reason to buy it?! - MICK). The bands included on the record are The Joyce McKinney Experience, Incest Brothers, Decadence Within, and ourselves, £4.50 Post Paid from:

PAUL,
30 KINGSLEY ROAD,
MILLBROOK,
SOUTHAMPTON,
SO1 3QQ.

As for new Nox Mortis vinyl, who knows, maybe (CONT'D ON PAGE 16, AFTER ANOREXIA INTERVIEW..)


"PACK OF 20 JPS PLEASE
BURNING AWAY MONEY, BURNING AWAY YOUR LIFE WHILE SOME BUSINESSMAN IS MAKING MONEY FROM YOUR SUFFERING. NO WONDER THEY'RE LAUGHING



The pictures on this, and the previous, page are by NEIL SMITH ("VICIOUS WORLD" zine) who can be contacted at the following address: 31 ROXBURGH ROAD, IPSWICH, SUFFOLK, IP4 3HW.

ONLY THE DEAD HAVE SEEN THE END OF WAR

POETRY...?

HAIR.

He picks up an aerosole
To spray his spiked hair
But does he ever wonder
What it's doing to the ozone layer?

Without it's protection
The planet will die
But still we pump deadly chemicals
Into the sky

We'll all die of skin cancer
But what does he care?
At least, while we're dying
He'll have colourful hair!

THE AUTHORITY TO LIVE?

The death of an animal -
The death of a man -
What's the difference?

They judge the value of a life
By it's "usefulness to society"

Well, if that's the basis of their judgement
Then they're worth a thousand times less
Than a Siberian dung beetle -
And that doesn't even exist!

THATCHERISM.

Thatcherism
Thatsherism
Thasherism
Thashism
Fascism...

ABORTED LIVES.

They never asked her how she got pregnant,
They just passed judgement
And told her to have the child

They never saw the terror in her eyes
As the inhuman bastard stood there
With a knife to her throat

But that was in the past...
The baby was real.

They - the State; the government;
The all-powerful leaders who rule our lives with shit legislation -
They didn't have to look after that child,
And bring it up in a world of hate and fear

They didn't even help -
They don't care if two lives are ruined
When one could have been almost valuable

They don't have to attend the funerals -
Neither of the coffins were fully grown -
They didn't face the torturous feeling of hopelessness
Brought on by society's indoctrinated selfishness

They just make the rules; create the laws;
Pass the legislative bills...

It wasn't their fault that she couldn't afford the abortion fee...
Was it...
It wasn't their fault that she took the life of her child,
And then herself...
Was it...?

YET ANOTHER PHILOSOPHICAL HARDCORE-THRASH LYRIC ABOUT LIFE IN GENERAL...

Wooooaargh! Uuuuuurrgh! Aaaaaargh!
Bloouuurgh! Murderers!
Blooouuuurgh! Scum!
Wuuuuuuuurrrrgh! Ooooaargh!
Uuuuuooaaargh! Bluurgh!!!

ALL WORDS DREAMT UP & WRITTEN DOWN BY MICK (1988)

POSTAL INTERVIEW WITH DAVE OF ANOREXIA (FEB.'88)...

Anorexia

MULTINATIONALS FUCK OFF

ANOREXIA ARE A 4-PIECE BAND FROM THE BIRMINGHAM AREA. THEY PLAY A FAIRLY STRAIGHTFORWARD BRAND OF PUNK WITH INTELLIGENT, DOWN-TO-EARTH LYRICS. THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS WERE ALL ANSWERED BY DAVE (VOCALS), EXCEPT THE LAST ONE, WHICH WAS ANSWERED BY SCOTT (DRUMS). THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THE BAND ARE: BISH (GUITAR); AND MARC (BASS).

POLEMIC: WHAT HAVE ANOREXIA BEEN DOING RECENTLY AS REGARDS GIGS & RECORDING STUFF? WHAT ARE YOUR IMMEDIATE & MORE LONG-TERM PLANS? AND HOW'S THE SPLIT E.P. WITH INDECENT ASSAULT SELLING?

Dave: Recently we haven't been doing a great deal as regards gigs, things have been quiet in that direction, but we have had a lot to do with the single. There is a lot more to it than just recording, and it all takes time, so recently we have been concentrating our efforts on that. But we look forward to getting some more gigs together soon, so if anyone can help us out with gigs then write and let us know. We prefer to play benefit gigs.

As for long-term plans, we haven't really got any, who knows? We plan to carry on making as many friends along the way as we can, that's what makes it all worthwhile.

It's hard to tell how the split EP is selling, it seems to be going o.k., and we've had no bad criticism yet! Anyone that wants a copy of the Anorexia/Indecent Assault EP then please write.

POLEMIC: MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS ARE DEVASTATING THE EARTH AT AN HORRIFIC RATE - THEY FUND ANIMAL EXPLOITATION, THE ARMS TRADE, DESTRUCTION OF THE RAINFORESTS, etc... THEY CONSIDER MAKING PROFITS TO BE MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE FUTURE OF OUR PLANET. HOW, IN YOUR VIEW, CAN WE EVEN BEGIN TO SLOW DOWN THIS DESTRUCTION & GENOCIDE? WHAT POWER DO ANARCHISTS HAVE AGAINST THE STRENGTH OF CAPITALISM?

Dave: Multinational Corporations are one of the biggest threats to the earth's, and all it's inhabitants', survival. There are ways in which we can all slow down this destruction and genocide, we can make a start by boycotting all products that we know to be connected with these Multinationals. We can produce literature and look at literature produced by other people as a guide as where to start to make a stand. By boycotting products of Multinational Corporations we change our lifestyles and are able to use this as an example to others to change their's.

It's not just up to "anarchists" to challenge the strength of capitalism, we all have a certain amount of limited power as consumers, and it's up to us all to decide how to use this power in regards to what we buy. If we buy produce that we know to be produced by a multinational company, we support that capitalism. But there are alternatives like organic food and produce made by co-operatives or smaller morally sound companies. Our power as consumers is always much stronger if we organise together, and more details of this kind of action can be obtained from:- CONSUMER CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE ARMS TRADE, 108 RAGLAN ROAD, SMETHWICK, BIRMINGHAM, B66 3SU. Anyone considering a consumer boycott would do well to get a copy of a "Multinationals Fuck Off" leaflet available from us, and a copy of "Dirty Fingers In Dirty Pies" available from:- BOX 4, 59 COOKRIDGE STREET, LEEDS, 2.

POLEMIC: ANARCHISM IS A TOTAL REJECTION OF GOVERNMENT, NO MATTER WHICH POLITICAL PARTY IS IN POWER. SURELY ANARCHISTS ARE FIGHTING A LOSING BATTLE AS THE BRITISH POLITICAL STRUCTURE BECOMES MORE & MORE RIGHT-WING (EVEN LEADING MEMBERS OF THE LABOUR PARTY ARE CONFORMING TO MANY THATCHERIST IDEAS IN (cont'd o'leaf...)

· REMOVE YOUR MASK ·

PEOPLE SEEM SO DISTANT
YET I CAN TOUCH THEM WITH MY HAND
THEY HIDE THEMSELVES - BURIED EMOTIONS
I'M SO CONFUSED I DONT UNDERSTAND

I TRY TO TOUCH YOU WITH MY HAND
YOU TURN AWAY
YOU DONT UNDERSTAND
I TRY TO LOOK INTO YOUR EYES
YOU TURN AWAY
YOU DONT UNDERSTAND
I TRY TO TALK - COMMUNICATE
YOU TURN AWAY
YOU DONT UNDERSTAND

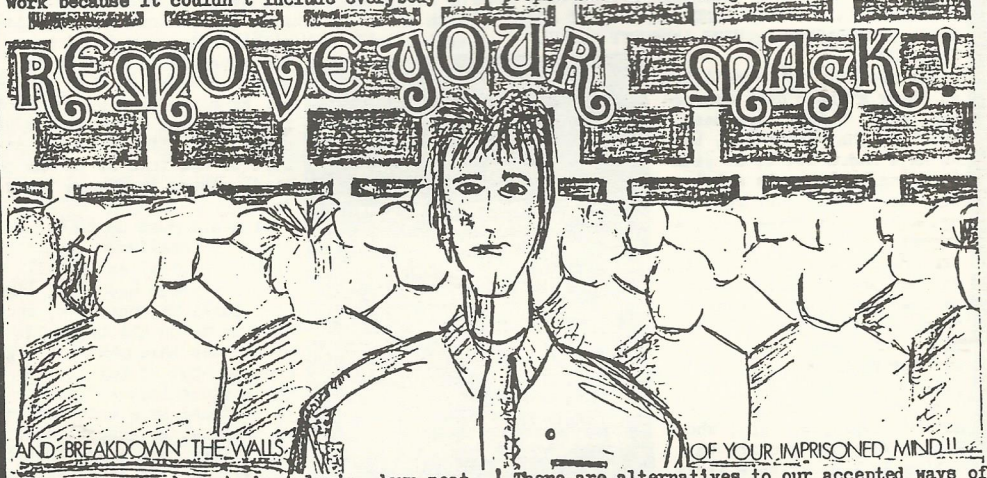
THERE'S A LIGHT IN THE DISTANCE FAR AWAY
AS I WALK TOWARDS IT IT NEVER GETS NEAR
BECAUSE YOU HOLD ME BACK YOU WONT LET ME GO
YOU SIT IN THE SHADOW OF IGNORANCE AND FEAR

I'M CONSTANTLY TRYING TO COMMUNICATE
WITH DIFFICULT PEOPLE
DIFFICULT EMOTIONS
WHY DO PEOPLE HIDE THEIR FEELINGS
FALSE PEOPLE
FALSE EMOTIONS
GENUINE PEOPLE ARE A PLEASURE TO LOVE
SO RESPECTFUL
SO UNDERSTANDING

SCRATCH THE SURFACE REMOVE YOUR MASK
DONT BE ASHAMED JUST LET IT SHOW
FUCK YOUR EMBARRASSMENT REMOVE INHIBITIONS
OPEN FLOODGATES OF EMOTIONS AND LET THEM FLOW

A DESPERATE ATTEMPT TO GAIN PUBLIC SUPPORT). ANARCHISTS ARE SEEN AS "HOOLIGANS" & "TERRORISTS" BY THE STATE & MILLIONS OF PEOPLE THROUGHOUT BRITAIN. IN MY OPINION, MANY PEOPLE REJECT ANARCHISM BECAUSE IT OFFERS NO VIABLE ALTERNATIVE TO THE PRESENT SYSTEM. THE CONCEPT OF TOTAL UTOPIAN ANARCHY SEEMS O.K., BUT NO-ONE SEEMS TO BE ABLE TO GIVE ANY CLEAR SUGGESTION OF HOW WE CAN BRING IT ABOUT. DO YOU AGREE WITH THE CONCEPT OF PUTTING TOGETHER AN "ANARCHIST MANIFESTO" IN WHICH POSITIVE ANARCHIST IDEAS COULD BE PUT FORWARD & MADE ACCESSABLE TO THE "GENERAL PUBLIC"? AND ALSO, WHAT DO YOU THINK THE EXTREMELY LIMITED ANARCHIST MOVEMENT CAN ACHIEVE IN THE NEAR FUTURE ? IN OTHER WORDS, WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?!

Dave: An "anarchist" manifesto could never work because it couldn't include everybody's ideas. Anarchy is not about laying down neat little policies for people to follow. The whole point of anarchism is that no rules or regulations should exist, where people live by what they believe to be morally right. People can always put their personal thoughts into a book, a magazine or a leaflet for distribution amongst the general public. A manifesto that supposedly spoke for everybody would, in the end, create divisions of people/groups deviating from points disagreed upon. Take for example the socialist (Labour) manifesto* that alienates people who don't conform to their political doctrine, they are believed to be militant and are consequently expelled. Would we really want that kind of a farce to develop? *(EDITOR'S NOTE: I THINK MANY MEMBERS OF THE SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY WOULD BE PRETTY OFFENDED BY DAVE'S ASSUMPTION THAT THE LABOUR PARTY MANIFESTO IS "SOCIALIST".) Dave(cont'd): One of the good things about anarchism is that people can be totally individual and still, ideally, be able to live with others of contrasting ideas/beliefs and not have to conform to a set of pre-planned ideas. Where we go from here could be said to be unknown. Taking our lifestyles into consideration and thinking about how we support this system already, for example it's not much good going into a consumer boycott if we still buy morally sound produce from somewhere like Tesco. There should be a lot less back-stabbing and more working together, whatever our differences may be. It would be good if we all made a positive start towards breaking down our inhibitions and starting to show each other what we really feel for each other instead of locking our emotions up inside ourselves, the way that we inter react with other people is important. Anarchists aren't just limited and oppressed by multinational companies and big business, we are just as much limited by people's inhibitions, by the way that people think, it's up to us and people like us to change that way of thinking.



There are alternatives to our accepted ways of life, just look at the ideas and beliefs behind different cultures such as red Indians or Aborigines, we could all learn a great deal from the ways of these societies. Potentially the anarchist movement could achieve a great deal in the near future, but how can we hope to change anything when we are still waiting for people, both inside and outside our movement, to change themselves?

POLEMIC: DO YOU AGREE WITH CENSORSHIP UNDER CERTAIN CIRCUMSTANCES - e.g. NOT ALLOWING FASCISTS TO GIVE OUT LEAFLETS IN THE STREET WHICH SUPPORT RACIAL VIOLENCE, OR TEARING DOWN NATIONAL FRONT STICKERS/POSTERS, etc.?

Dave: Censorship under any circumstances is bad. Censorship, by it's meaning, takes away people's freedom. Censorship isn't not allowing fascists to give out leaflets in the street which support racial violence, because these fascists are infringing on other people's freedom, in a way, promoting censorship which we claim to be against. Everyone is entitled to freedom of expression and human rights, so long as they don't use them to take away someone else's freedom. South Africa is a good

example of a fascist regime, and just look at how they use the powers of censorship to take away people's basic human rights. So by tearing down National Front stickers and posters, and by confronting fascists in the street, we are showing that we don't support censorship of any kind.

POLEMIC: WHAT ARE YOUR GENERAL VIEWS ON PORNOGRAPHY? IS IT POSSIBLE TO DEFINE "PORNOGRAPHY" WHEN DIFFERENT THINGS OFFEND DIFFERENT PEOPLE? DO YOU THINK NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO PUBLISH PICTURES OF TOPLESS WOMEN? (AFTER ALL, BANNING PAGE 3 WOULD JUST BE ANOTHER FORM OF CENSORSHIP.)

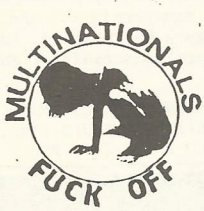
Dave: Pornography is dangerous and unnecessary. It gives an unequal image of wimmin, reinforcing the myth that the woman is the weak, gentle, submissive type. Pornography is not just found in the "traditional" mags and films, it is easily accessable in our society within newspape s, magazines, books, films, TV, and advertising boards. They all use wimmin as a body and nothing else, often to help sell a product. Pornography of all sorts portrays wimmin as toys and to be always willing to please. Pornography degrades wimmin and allows them no respect, and is the main cause of sexual crimes. Men start to believe that it is o.k. for them to be able to dominate wimmin and to use them for selfish pleasure, to take out their anger and frustration on the "always willing to please" wimmin that they see so often. This kind of violence is a direct result of the media-dominated pornography. Men in our society look upon wimmin as ours to control and exploit, men think that wimmin are lesser than them, men see wimmin as their "mississ" or "bird", they are WRONG. Different aspects of pornography may offend different people, but it doesn't have to offend people to be pornography, pornography is degrading and humiliates wimmin and/or men whether it offends people or not. Page 3 is degrading and oppressive towards wimmin. Whether you believe that banning page 3 is censorship or not, we are fighting against oppression which means that in our opinion page 3 is a definite target. Wimmin are human beings, they possess the same qualities as men do, and it is about time that this male-dominated society realised it. Wimmin do not exist to appear semi-naked on a national newspaper for men to drool over at the breakfast table and in their place of work. How would most people feel if they turned to page 3 one morning and there was a large penis staring them in the face?? (I THINK I'D BE INTRIGUED, BUT DEFINITELY NOT OFFENDED — MICK.)

POLEMIC: ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO MENTION?

Scott: Above all, try and be yourself... don't worry about the things other people are doing, just do what you want to do... without causing grief to anyone else of course!! I mean, how can you go on about liberation when you're just following the other "sheep"... surely that's oppression. The feeling of insecurity, and having no friends

(CONT'D OVERLEAF.....)

UNITED WE STAND...



Anorexia

- i.e. you get the feeling you have to look like everyone else or no-one will talk to you.

Another thing, let's all start to look after one another a bit better, and put a stop to all this back-biting that's been going on in recent times! For example; if you see someone on their own at a gig or wherever, why don't you go up to them and "try and break the ice". But don't ignore them, leaving them on their own isn't going to do anything, it will only make them feel even more isolated than before.

Anyway, thanks a lot for the space in your zine, Mick. We'd like to say hello to Rat Statement and Domination Factor.

(ANOREXIA SHOULD BE RELEASING A SPLIT L.P. WITH DOMINATION FACTOR IN THE FAIRLY NEAR FUTURE.)

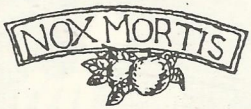
·PØRNØGRAPHY·
ØBSESSIØN! PØSSESSIØN!
ØPPRESSIØN! RAPE!!
PØRNØGRAPHY IS WIMMINS DEGRADATIØN
"WIMMIN ARE NØT ØBJECTS ØF LUST, THEY ARE REAL PEØPLE. PØRNØGRAPHY IS INSULTING, DEGRADING AND CAN LEAD TØ VIØLENCE AGAINST WIMMIN"

THANKS TO DAVE & SCOTT FOR TAKING THE TIME TO GIVE SOME THOUGHTFUL & INTERESTING ANSWERS. I DON'T AGREE WITH EVERYTHING DAVE SAID, ESPECIALLY ABOUT PORNOGRAPHY. HOWEVER, I DO THINK THAT HE PUT THE ARGUMENT AGAINST PORNOGRAPHY VERY WELL & IT DESERVES A THOUGHTFUL REPLY. FOR MY OWN VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT, SEE THE ARTICLE ON THE FOLLOWING PAGE...

ANYWAY, IF YOU WANT TO CONTACT ANOREXIA - FOR GIG OFFERS, COMMUNICATION, OR FOR A COPY OF THEIR SPLIT E.P. WITH INDECENT ASSAULT, OR THE "MULTINATIONALS FUCK OFF" LEAFLET - WRITE TO EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING ADDRESSES:

DAVE, 67 MARSTON ROAD, WEOLEY CASTLE, BIRMINGHAM, B29 5LS, ENGLAND.

SCOTT, 39 MONYHULL HALL ROAD, KING'S NORTON, BIRMINGHAM, B30 3QE, ENGLAND.



NOX MORTIS INTERVIEW (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9)...

Paul: in the future. At the moment there's no plans, but you never know.

POLEMIC: DO YOU WATCH MUCH TELEVISION? DO YOU SEE IT AS A USEFUL SOURCE OF EDUCATION, OR A BRAIN-CELL-DESTROYING GOVERNMENT PROPAGANDA MACHINE - OR A BIT OF BOTH?

Paul: I must admit I do watch some T.V., especially good comedy etc; Black Adder, Friday Night Live. Also I like to keep up to date with current affairs by watching the news, although it's State-controlled and biased it still serves as an education to me. Also programmes like World In Action can be very beneficial for finding out about scandals etc. But TV can, as you say, be brain-cell destroying, especially seeing as though the amount of crap they broadcast totally out-weighs the decent programmes. The government machine manipulates the population by feeding them total shit through the TV screen, and the majority of people are quite happy to sit back and take it all in.

(I DON'T AGREE THAT T.V. CAN BE BRAIN-CELL DESTROYING - THAT WAS SIMPLY THE WAY I CHOSE TO PHRASE THE QUESTION -- MICK.)

POLEMIC: MARTIN LUTHOR-KING ONCE SAID THAT EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A CAUSE THAT THEY ARE PREPARED TO DIE FOR, & THAT ANYONE WHO HAS NOT FOUND THAT CAUSE DOES NOT DESERVE TO LIVE. HAVE YOU FOUND SUCH A CAUSE?

Paul: The only answer I can give to that is that I suppose I couldn't have because I'm still alive. I suppose if it came to it then I would take up arms and be prepared to die in order to fight Nazism. Then again any sane thinking person would do the same, well I would expect them to anyway.

POLEMIC: FINALLY, IS THERE ANYTHING ELSE YOU'D LIKE TO MENTION?

Paul: No, not really, just thanx for the opportunity to appear in your wonderful zine (grovel, grovel) and for asking more original and well thought out questions. Keep up the good work!!

(ALL OF PAUL'S ANSWERS WERE WRITTEN BEFORE SIMON'S DEATH.)

Everything you ever wanted from... SEX PORNOGRAPHY SEX

PORNOGRAPHY... What is "pornography"? Well, that's a hard one (no pun intended). Pornography means different things to different people, and there can be no fixed definition. Therefore, how can "pornography", as a concept, even exist? That's easy - it doesn't! (From now on, in this article, I will use the word "pornography" only in it's most widely accepted form - i.e. to refer to images of naked people, usually women, which are intended to stimulate a sexual response.)

Personally, I disagree with all forms of censorship, except when it is imposed on those who threaten the freedom of others - broadly speaking, the more "right-wing" members of society.

I am, therefore, opposed to the censorship of so-called "pornography". Once you start defining what is "morally acceptable", and what is "degrading", things get very dodgy - where does it end? And, most importantly, who decides what is, and is not, "acceptable"? The government?! There aren't very many things which I would say actually offend me, and "pornography" definitely isn't one of them.

I abhor all violence, especially against women or children (not for any sexist reason, but simply because they are usually less able to defend themselves than men). I consider rape to be one of the most horrific crimes that it is possible for one human being to carry out on another (second only to murder). But I also think that sex, and people's sexuality, should be brought out into the open as much as possible, rather than the subject being kept "taboo". And the more censorship is imposed on "sexually explicit" images, the more people's sexuality is going to be suppressed.

I don't believe that the wide availability (is it really that wide?) of "pornography" increases the number of sexual assaults on women. Rape is a question of power and dominance rather than simply sexual frustration. Some people argue that pornographic images inflate those frustrations, and thus increase the possibility of that man committing rape. But I firmly believe that, if pornography was made less available, their frustrations would become worse. However, I can see how the stereotypical image of submissive women portrayed (and often shoved down our throats) by advertizers etc. may be dangerous, and could lead to a small minority of men (and women, for that matter) developing biased opinions about women. But I like to think that people (including men!) have minds of their own. We come into contact with women every day, so why should a sexist T.V. commercial, or a "porno mag", make us into perverts? (Although, I have to confess, "pervert" is another word which I cannot understand the meaning of - I mean, who decides what constitutes "perverted" behaviour?) I find it pretty insulting that someone thinks, just because I see pictures of naked women in magazines, that I will then develop some kind of extreme hatred or lust for every single member of that sex. It's just like the government saying that violent images on T.V. make us all into murderers - it's just an easy way of passing the blame, and creating scapegoats.

Banning "page 3" would just be a blatant form of censorship. In the Anorexia interview (on page 15) Dave says that "Page 3 is degrading and oppressive towards wimmin...", but how is it "degrading and oppressive"? Maybe the tabloids do portray women as sexual objects, but not all women, just the women in the photos. Just because a few women choose to take their clothes off and pose in front of a camera, that doesn't make me think that all women must be "sexually available".

I believe that it's a pretty narrow-minded person who thinks that the number of sexual attacks on women would decrease if page 3, and other forms of "soft porn", were banned.

IMAGES DO NOT CREATE, OR CHANGE, ATTITUDES - ATTITUDES CREATE IMAGES.

Pornography, censorship, and the oppression of women are subjects which concern me a great deal, and there are many aspects which I have been unable to cover in this short article. I wish to continue discussing and debating these issues within the pages of POLEMIC, so let me know your views - I'm not afraid of criticism! I particularly want to hear the views of women on these, and other, subjects.

- Love... MICK ('88)

This picture was drawn by ANDY C. ("DARK DIAMONDS" zine) who can be contacted at the following address:

1 ST.JOHN'S VIEW, BOSTON SPA, WETHERBY, WEST YORKSHIRE, LS23 6NQ.

FIFTY ACRES EVERY MINUTE

EVERY year an area of rainforest the size of Britain is cut down or defoliated, and burnt. Globally, one billion people depend on water flowing from these forests, which soak up rain and release it gradually. The disaster in Ethiopia and Sudan is at least partly due to uncontrolled deforestation. In Amazonia — where there are now about 100,000 beef ranches — torrential rains sweep down through the treeless valleys, eroding the land and washing away the soil. The bare earth, baked by the tropical sun, becomes useless for agriculture. *It has been estimated that this destruction causes at least one species of animal, plant or insect to become extinct every few hours.*

PET FOOD & LITTER

• McDonald's and Burger King are two of the many US corporations using lethal poisons to destroy vast areas of Central American rainforest to create grazing pastures for cattle to be sent back to the States as burgers and pet food, and to provide fast-food packaging materials. (Don't be fooled by McDonald's saying they use recycled paper: only a tiny per cent of it is. The truth is it takes *800 square miles* of forest just to keep them supplied with paper for one year. Tons of this end up littering the cities of 'developed' countries.)

COLONIAL INVASION

• Not only are McDonald's and many other corporations contributing to a major ecological catastrophe, they are forcing the tribal peoples in the rainforests off their ancestral territories where they have lived peacefully, without damaging their environment, for thousands of years. This is a typical example of the arrogance and viciousness of multinational companies in their endless search for more and more profit.

It's no exaggeration to say that when you bite into a Big Mac, you're helping the McDonald's empire to wreck this planet.

The above cuttings are taken from the LONDON GREENPEACE leaflet about McDONALD'S. For more information, contact:

GREENPEACE (LONDON),
5 CALEDONIAN ROAD,
LONDON N1.

PESSIMISTIC REALITY.

We are all dying -
Can't you see?
Life snuffed out
By the weight of falling trees

The planet is crying
But ignorance reigns
We're destroying the world
With our "superior brains"

Trees are our life-source
But what do we care
If we cut them all down
And fuck up the air?

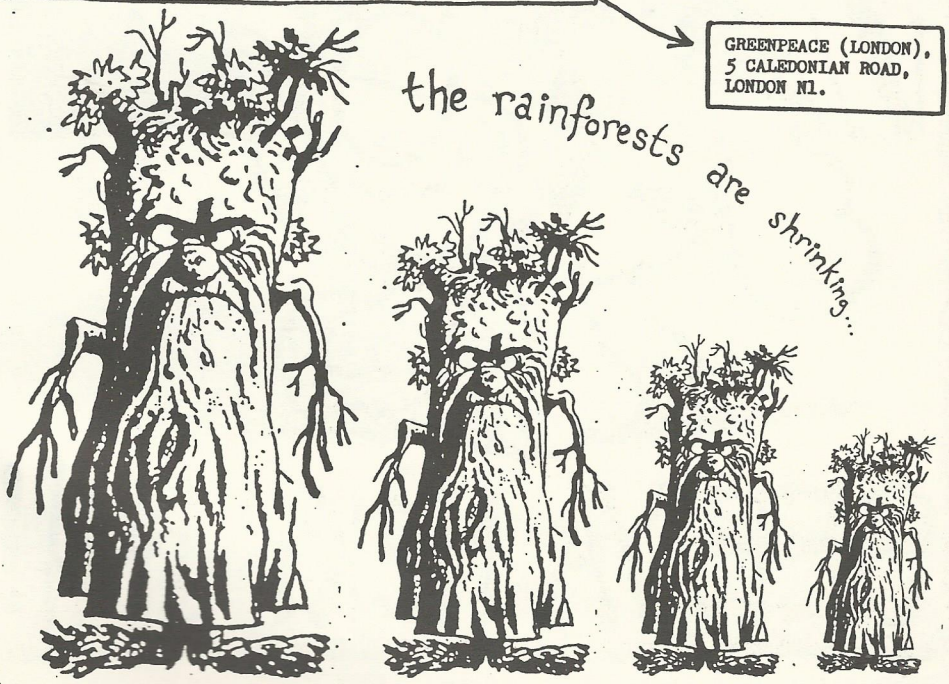
We're caught up in the system
Forever enslaved
What value has "life"
When there's a profit to be made?

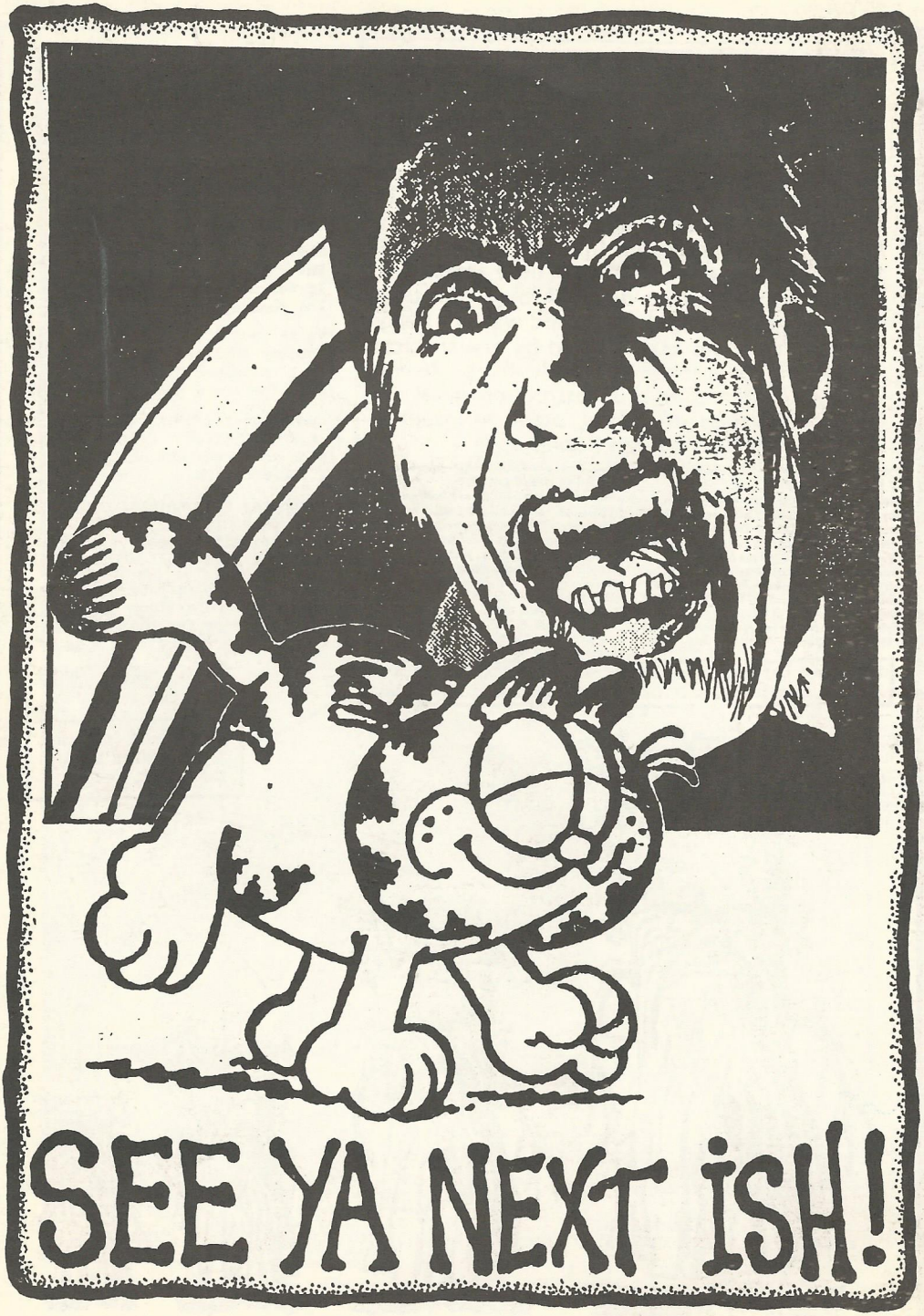
Humankind's disease...
...EXPLOITATION
When the trees are all gone...
...SUFFOCATION

Death may seem natural
But...genocide?
For capitalist greed
Millions have died

Animals and plants -
Whole species extinct
Is there hope for the future?
What do you think?

- MICK '88




SEE YA NEXT ISH!